

Horrible

SCENE ON THE HANGMAN'S SCAFFOLD.

Sensational Strangling of William West, Murderer of the Crouch Family.

He Explains His Terrible Crime at Washington, Pennsylvania, at 2:50 O'clock.

HE ATTEMPTS TO KILL HIMSELF Insubstantial from the Loss of Blood—Hanging Execution.

While Unconscious the Noose Is Adjusted, but the Rops Breaks and He Falls on His Face on the Ground.

Second Attempt Successful, Suffering Incidents.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, Pa., Feb. 26.—The incident attending the hanging of William West today was so dramatically sensational and horrifying as the most active imagination could picture.

From 8 a. m. till 2:30 p. m. there was one almost continuous line of sickening occurrences, which added to the horror of the day, revolting affords.

At last midnight the prisoner's brother, Basil West, and his sister, Bertha West, visited him in his cell in the presence of the death watch. At that time he seemed a little flustered and would talk incoherently. His brother asked him if he intended to make a confession on the scaffold, and he replied that he had nothing to confess; that he was innocent and would protest till his last breath.

West seemed uneasy, he talked and talked, but he refused to make a confession as easy as possible and to be sure and make safe and effective preparations, there might be no delay or accident. The sheriff promised to do the best he could for him, and West seemed to become more cheerful.

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the beam overhead which supported the fatal though treacherous rope. The floor of the scaffold was built exactly on a level with a window in the office of the County Superintendent. The plan being to bring the condemned man out through the window. A temporary stairway had been built from the floor in the Superintendent's office to the level of the window sill, and the esch had been removed.

THE PROSECUTION STAFFS.

At 2:15 the deputy sheriff took the stretcher with the unconscious victim upon it and carried it from the jail to the Court House and thence to the County Superintendent's office and up the stairway to the window, built to bear about the weight of the doomed, and the scaffold.

The appearance of the party upon the scaffold caused a sudden tightening of the tension of the nerves of the spectators in the audience. Faces were pale and many more trembled till their knees knocked together.

There were in the yard about one hundred persons. All the members of the jury were there, and Judge McViney, who pronounced the sentence upon the condemned. Basil West, the doomed man's brother, and a representative of the press, Mr. Griffith, the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Crouch, the murdered man, was present. J. M. Crouch, a grandson, was there as a reporter for the Wheeling Star.

West, a tall, slender, young man, dressed in a dark suit, and a man named Baker, an old black man, of West's race, were in the audience. Besides these were newspaper men, curious friends of the sheriff, and a crowd of people who had gathered to see the hanging.

THE NERVOUS ASSEMBLY.

The more appearance of the doomed man caused nervousness in the spectators, but they were destined to see the most revolting, sickening and disgusting sight in the lot of many in the history of this world.

West was still in a semi-conscious state upon the scaffold. He seemed to be aware of the awful proceedings in the presence of the death watch. At that time he seemed a little flustered and would talk incoherently. His brother asked him if he intended to make a confession on the scaffold, and he replied that he had nothing to confess; that he was innocent and would protest till his last breath.

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righened upon death, and dragged into almost insensibility, was dragged to the drop and fell in a faint, unconscious manner, in order to uphold the majesty of the law. The crowd of spectators could never be fully stoned for, no matter what the revenge.

It was known that the man was a coward, but it was not deemed that even a coward would make such a scene as was presented at the hanging. Early this morning, blood was discovered on the shirt of the condemned man. An examination showed that he had been scratched a six inch piece of iron, whetted sharp to an end, in his coat, and while the attention of the guards was distracted for a moment, he plunged the iron again and again into his throat. Even at such a time, it is thought the man's nerve failed him, and instead of stabbing himself to death, he weakened at the last moment and created the scene called the attention of the guards to his piteous condition.

The man had covered himself with a blanket when attempting to cut his throat, but it is thought he was not loath to risk a desperate attempt to escape. Dr. Ernest F. Aitchison, with others, was hastily called in, and worked with the dazed murderer for several hours before he was aroused from his comatose condition.

Dr. Aitchison was of the opinion, however, all the time that the enfeebled condition of West was not so much owing to his ugly attempt at suicide as it was to the shock of the hanging. Along with dying on the gallows, the bulletins issued by the sheriff as to the condition of the man were calculated to increase rather than diminish the excitement of the crowd. It was hardly likely that West would live long enough to face the gallows.

On the streets were many who actually lived West an innocent man, and scores of negroes walked about excitedly denouncing any attempt to execute him in his condition when they believed him guiltless. The better educated whites, who had been closely following the trial from end to end, stated it was a case of positive guilt, though every link in the deadly chain of evidence was formed by evidence purely circumstantial.

THE EXCITEMENT.

The excitement abated after a while, and at 12:30 when it was announced that West had somewhat recovered from his stupor, all eyes were turned to the scaffold. The man was now dressed in a suit of dark clothing, and he looked as if he were a man of positive guilt, though every link in the deadly chain of evidence was formed by evidence purely circumstantial.

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pheny, for \$450. It was admitted by the defense that West was at his father's house near the Crouch homestead on Tuesday morning between 11 and 12 o'clock. It was shown by witnesses that West had worked in the employ of the Crouch family, that he knew their helplessness, and that he knew of their keeping money about the house. Andrew Crouch had often paid him wages in cash gotten from the house.

According to the theory of the prosecution the money took place Tuesday afternoon. Witnesses saw West near the Crouch homestead at fifteen minutes past four and at intervals until he reached Monongahela City and rejoined Annie Brundage. When he saw the Sewickley West had \$3. He obtained \$4.50 on the forged order. He had fastened West had considerable money in his possession.

J. M. Patterson made the first argument for the defense. Major Vankirk followed, also for the defense, and L. A. McCracken closed for the Commonwealth. Then the case was given to the jury. At 10 o'clock on Saturday morning a verdict of murder in the second degree was rendered. Later a motion for a new trial was overruled and West was sentenced to be hanged.

THE NEW TRIAL FALLACIES.

A man on the scaffold said a fair report of his death of newspaper men. JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Feb. 25.—Harry Marsh was executed at Ebensburg at 1:50 p. m., for the murder of Clara Shakerhaft at Gallitzin, last summer. Death resulted from a broken neck in eight minutes.

Marsh showed astonishing nerve, not giving the least evidence of fear of death. His last request was to newspaper men, as follows: "Don't you fellows put no false reports in."

GUT HIS DESERTS.

A Negro Hapist Huddled with Bullets. MACON, Ga., Feb. 26.—At Abbeville, Wilcox county, Postmaster Allan West, colored, tried to rope the twelve-year-old daughter of a respectable citizen. He fled but was captured by a mob who determined to give him a severe beating and let him go. The negro was stripped, but when the whipping began he broke away and fled. He was armed with a knife and was fired on the fleeing negro who fell with bullet wounds.

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SOUTHERNERS STIRRED

Over the Appointment of a Colored Man at Vicksburg.

TO BE THEIR POSTMASTER.

Democratic Members of Congress Indignant—McGinnis Will Get His Seat—The Ghost of the Election Still Stalking.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—The nomination by the President this afternoon of James Hill to be postmaster at Vicksburg, Miss., comes as a sort of sequel to the fight over the federal election bill. As soon as the nomination was announced, the Mississippi delegation in Congress was in great excitement, and there were open threats that Hill would be prevented from going into office.

THE CALIFORNIA FLOOD.

Further Details of the Ruin Wrought by the Water.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 26.—The storm of Sunday and Monday was the most severe ever experienced in this section. The damage to railroads extending from the city is enormous. It will be a week before travel is resumed. The town of Tijuana, on the Mexican border, was isolated by the flood. The town of San Diego, which is not badly damaged, is the only one of the city that is not badly damaged.

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